

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Wesely, to close.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry to take the time but this is awfully important and I'll just try and be brief. I'm going to give some time to Senator Morehead. You've argued the main point being the small communities want this. I understand that. I understand Columbus and Norfolk want this. I'm sure there are other communities as well. You don't understand the amendment if you think it only applies to small communities. It says any community that is incorporated. That means Lincoln, that means Omaha and if you want to get in competition with us, we'll beat your pants off. We're bigger than you are, we have more money, we have a bigger tax base and if it's competition you want, we'll have competition with you but I don't think you want to get into that. And what you don't understand is you may be thinking Columbus and Norfolk, but this applies to Lincoln. It would apply to Omaha and what about the smaller towns in Columbus and the smaller towns in Norfolk? What you are doing is taking the fiber in right now, state versus state, and bringing it down to city versus city and once one city gets under this provision and they provide this much money and this is a sort of benefit, the next city will have to match them and then the next city will have to match that and the next city will have to match that and before you know it you've given away so much you won't even believe what will happen. This is a giveaway bill because at this point there are no restrictions, no targeting, no effort to try and deal with the specifics of what we're doing here. In my estimation, you're heading down the wrong path. You headed down it last year and I was with you. I think we made a mistake and we gave away an awful lot last year, we're coming back for some more this time. Don't make the mistake twice. I hope you've learned something from last year. This is a serious mistake to go further with it and I'm asking you to consider that, and I'd give the rest of my time to Senator Morehead.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Thank you. Mr. President and colleagues, I won't take all of the time probably, but I stand to very strongly support Senator Wesely in his indefinite postpone motion. I think everything that he has said is right on target.